

DPS Chaparral



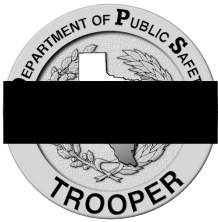
Produced by DPS Public Information, (512) 424-2080

May 2000

DPS memorial service set for May 16

Every year in May, the DPS family gathers to remember and reflect on our brothers and sisters who have died or been severely injured while serving their communities during the past year.

This year's service will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 16 at the DPS Training Academy. Lt. Gov. Rick Perry is the scheduled keynote speaker.



Those attending the memorial service will be family members of DPS officers killed in the line of duty, as well as DPS officers who have had to retire because of injuries they received in the line of duty. DPS has lost 74 officers in the line of duty since 1931, some to traffic crashes, some to felony assaults.

This year's memorial service will recognize the sacrifices made by the eight Texas law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 1999 and the one who has died so far this year. Of these nine officers, six were killed feloniously; two died in automobile crashes and one in a plane crash during a training exercise.

One of those killed last year was DPS Trooper Terry Miller, 37, of Pleasanton. He and two other officers were killed Oct. 12 during an ambush.

If you're not able to make it to the ceremony in Austin, please take a moment around 10 a.m. on May 16 to think of our fallen family members.

Q: What's up with that?

A: Ask the Colonel!

If you have a question about DPS policy, have a suggestion about how the Department can be improved or know a need that should be addressed by upper management, here's your chance. Col. Davis now has an e-mail address so you can contact him: AskTheColonel@txdps.state.tx.us. Please remember that he cannot accept e-mails involving personnel complaints or other matters that might involve disciplinary action or legal issues. All e-mails will be answered.

Dear Fellow Employees:

It seems like only yesterday that we were worrying whether all our microchips would survive past Jan. 1, 2000. The Y2K bug didn't bite and now the year is already one-third over and school's about out—at the DPS and for all of you who have school or college age kids.

Our most recent Capitol Police school graduates May 11. Soon, motorists will be hitting the road for Memorial Day, the official beginning of the vacation season.

As always, we'll have all available units on the roadways to look for unsafe drivers and to assist motorists. But one thing will be different this holiday and from now on: I have discontinued our time worn Operation Motorcide program.

Since at least the 1940s, the DPS has made an estimate of the number of people who might die in traffic crashes during a holiday period and then issued updates on the numbers actually killed. On the theory that scare tactics do not modify behavior, the National Safety council dropped this program in 1991.

While the DPS will continue to do everything we can to urge motorists to drive safely during holiday periods, we will no longer make death estimates or issue reports on the numbers killed.

Thomas A. Davis Jr.

DPS online: www.txdps.state.tx.us

DPS "on the air": 512-424-7777

Awards

Shirley Timmons has been presented a Medal of Merit for her work as a forensic artist for DPS and other law enforcement agencies. During a recent two-year period, 24 suspects were identified with the help of her drawings. In one of those cases, she sketched a suspect composite from notes given her by a 10-year-old Val Verde County girl who could not speak because her throat had been cut. A 13-year-old girl had been killed in the same attack. The drawing spurred the arrest of Tommy Lynn Sells, who has confessed to multiple murders in several states. Timmons, whose work already has been recognized with a Director's Citation, now works fulltime as a forensic artist with the Texas Rangers in Austin after several years in MVT. She is the 17th recipient of the Medal of Merit in DPS history.

Preventing a suicide earned a Director's Citation for Tr. **Michael McClain**, HP Nacogdoches, when he teamed with Angelina County Sheriff David Henson to calm a suicidal man armed with a handgun and shotgun. Without regard to their safety, both men entered the room where the man had barricaded himself and successfully negotiated an end to the standoff as the subject held a gun to his head. Henson, who received a Director's Award, was nominated by Sgt. **Michael Lathan**, HP Nacogdoches.

Tr. **Donnie Pacheco**, HP Pleasanton, received a Director's Citation for repeatedly diving into the frigid waters of the Nueces River in an attempt to rescue a motorist. Pacheco, then stationed in Crystal City, was off-duty when he responded to the crash site in Dimmit County and

made several attempts to reach the vehicle some 30 feet below the surface. Alfredo Castaneda Jr., launched his boat to assist in the nighttime rescue effort and Hagen Condry made several dives into the murky water and provided guidance to the trooper. Despite their valiant efforts, the rescue attempt was unsuccessful. Castaneda and Condry, both nominated by Lt. **Kenneth Musick**, HP Laredo, received Director's Awards.

Short Shots

EMS wins Y2K award

The Y2K Texas Readiness 2000 Campaign, spearheaded by the DPS Division of Emergency Management, has been honored with two first place awards and one second place award by the Texas Public Relations Association. The honors included the Silver Spur Award for the best non-profit campaign, the highest award given by the TPRA.

DPS Mutual Association

The DPS Mutual Association has new officers. Col. **Thomas A. Davis Jr.** was elected president; Lt. Col. **David McEathron**—vice president; Chief of Finance **Tom Haas**—secretary; and Special Projects Accountant **Douglas Noren**—treasurer. The DPS Mutual oversees a life insurance fund that provides death benefits for beneficiaries of deceased members. The membership fee is \$10. For additional details, call 512-424-2061.

Barbecue anyone?

The annual DPS retiree's barbecue in Lampasas is set for 6 p.m. June 19. Anyone interested in attending should contact Renate Harrison, 512-556-6390.

Mile Markers

Administration

Lula Burleson Schuler, Purchaser III, Gen. Stores Austin to Mgr. II, Gen. Svc. Austin.

Driver License Division

Alex Charles Coleman, Tr. II, DL Arlington to Sgt., DL Lufkin; **Mary F. Foster**, Tr. II, DL Weatherford to Sgt., DL Midland.

Traffic Law Enforcement

William Walter Franklin, Lt., HP Amarillo to Capt., Cap. Pol. Austin; **David Lynn Doyle**, Lt., L&W Corpus Christi to Capt., L&W Corpus Christi.

Retirements

Carolyn Joyce Eiben, DIC Evaluator, Austin, 26 yrs., 3 mos.

Deaths

John Strother, ret. Capt., L&W Houston (Nov. 1941 – March 1976) died March 11.



On the mend...

Best wishes for a speedy recovery from line-of-duty injuries go to:

Tr. **Kenneth Rushing**, L&W Conroe

Linda Swails, DL Examiner Carrollton, struck by a motorist while conducting a road test March 30 and recovering from serious leg injuries.

Tr. **Sharleigh Shaw**, HP Cotulla, injured when attacked during DWI traffic stop April 15.

Tr. **Leslie Grace**, HP DeLeon, injured in traffic crash April 15.

DPS online: www.txdps.state.tx.us

DPS "on the air": 512-424-7777